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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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4. On 11 May, when the actual crisis was over, PDP meeting places were opened; PDP members, including those released from jail, gathered; the party began the distribution of more leaflets, joining themselves to the successful opposition and criticizing certain members of the new Cabinet. These include Miguel Angel Ordonez, Minister of Government and Justice; Ignacio Molino Jr., Minister of Foreign Relations; Juan de Arco Galindo, Minister of Labor and Public Health. The PDP opposes Molino especially, since, he, as Foreign Minister in the government of Domingo Diaz, was partially responsible for the deportation of Max Brodsky and also signed the aviation agreement with the United States.
5. While the PDP was not itself active, the Federacion Sindical de Trabajadores de la Republica de Panama (FSTRP), led by certain members and ex-members of the PDP, signalled the strike of all chauffeurs, tailors, and general tradesmen, which resulted in the general strike throughout the country. The FSTRP assisted in the general strike by sending in messages and appeals which were broadcast over Radio Continental throughout the period of the crisis. The FSTRP also successfully distributed a great deal of propaganda during the crisis.
6. Another source reported that from the moment that the PDP leaders were arrested on 5 May, the PDP was helpless as an organization. It had no plan to work clandestinely; it had no adequate groups formed to take advantage of the political situation which would have been so favorable to Communism. Ruben Souza, the only capable leader not in jail, was unavailable for planning or advice. On Tuesday, 8 May, a meeting was planned in Room 8, #10 20th Street, Panama, a location which was raided by the police. The party suspects that among those members who were advised of this meeting there was one who was working for the Secret Police. This source states that the PDP disappeared completely from the scene, that it distinguished itself during the crisis by its complete and perfect absence.
7. According to source, the new Minister of Education, Ricardo Bermudez, is an intimate friend of Hugo Victor and Cesar de Leon. The PDP is also favorably inclined toward Norberto Navarro, new Minister of Public Works, and hopes that these Cabinet members can retain their posts.